

Journal about Comprehension Strategies for Effective Readers

TINYURL.com/GoalsJournalSteve

<https://advancementcourses.learninghouse.com/>

GOAL: I look forward to the day when teachers display their work and graduate work and continuing education work the way students at High Tech High display their work.

See New Tech High LINK www.newtechhigh.org/portfolio

See a sample website by a student at High Tech High

TINYURL.com/exampleDP

www.TinyURL.com/abelsite

The future of grading (a focus on skills, not GPA)

www.Mastery.org VIDEO: Imagine a transcript that

doesn't show grades www.TINYURL.com/nogradesvideo

My goal is for this course to support the adoption of the Mastery Transcript.

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The most recent entry is at the beginning of this document.

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Day 35 (draft: I'm done!)

Hooray! I have posted a summary of my work on my portfolio. Here is the link to the portfolio
TINYURL.com/SteveMccreaPortfolio

Page for CONTINUING EDUCATION

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May 13 Monday
Day 7

I looked up more documents related to the Framework for Teaching by Danielson
<https://danielsongroup.org/downloads/2013-framework-teaching-evaluation-instrument>

Is it possible to be an effective teacher, is it possible to teach with a strong focus on personalizing the experience

of school for every student without ever having heard of Danielson? Sure. But this list is helpful.

Suggestion: Give a link to the list of domains

<https://danielsongroup.org/downloads/2013-framework-teaching-evaluation-instrument>

I am working today on Activity Packet 1 to get it completed and shipped to the facilitator.

<https://youtu.be/6TmQyQtCDL0> My video from last night. I posted it this morning. www.TINYURL.com/SteveReadingPosters

I created a small poster that I added to Mrs. Brownlee's class video, required watching in the course.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvEz7jcmfOE&feature=youtu.be>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l4zSYFyP7mFm_cslNAdPjpucm1-kRnITZJrtdG75TUg/edit?usp=sharing the poster

TINYURL.com/SteveFixupPoster

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May 12 Mother's Day
Day 6 of the course

Here are some points that came to me while I was looking at the Module 1 Foundations

1. I like the idea of posters that I can hang in my classroom to immediately communicate (whether it is a math, social studies or English class) that “this is how we read actively.”
2. Constant improvement: At least three of the posters can benefit from tweaking. Richard Clark of USC has a “two-factor rule” for posters. The poster should somehow attract the attention of the viewer to the main idea of the poster and there should be a clear step-by-step prescription about how to put into practice the idea that the poster has displayed. The language should be simple so that a wide audience can benefit from the information. FEEDBACK to the designers of the course: Add an “additional or optional product for the graduate student to deliver so that the conduit of intrat is greased.” Currently the course has two main products, after completing

Module 1 (after approximately 7 hours of absorbing information and reflecting on the material). Why not have a mini-activity?

3. How to pay for the optional additional feedback. I would pay an additional \$20 per feedback session -- I've already invested nearly \$300. Why not charge \$20 for 2 mini exercises. The first session would be to print the posters, hang the posters, and make a short video demonstrating the posters to my class. This is like a book talk but it is a poster talk. "This is what I do when I see these posters. The posters remind me to be an active reader and the read actively."

4. The second mini-activity would be to unpack "The domains that are included in the alignment for the framework for Teaching, described by Charlotte Danielson"

<https://danielsongroup.org/framework>

In the video about best practices at Fairfax form 2012, the narrator talked about 5% of the words that are unique to that article or that topic.

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2 pm May 12

<https://danielsongroup.org/downloads/2013-framework-teaching-evaluation-instrument>

Look up Danielson Charlotte Framework for Teaching

Here is the alignment

Here is how this module aligns with the Framework for Teaching that Charlotte Danielson describes. By the way, here is a link to Danielson's site.

Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching Alignment

Domain 1: Planning and Preparation

1a Demonstrating Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy

1d Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources

1e Designing Coherent Instruction

Domain 2: The Classroom Environment

2b Establishing a Culture for Learning

Domain 3: Instruction

3b Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques

3c Engaging Students in Learning

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Day 5

May 11 Saturday

- What motivated you to take this course? What about your experiences or your professional practice made you want to learn more about this topic?
- What are one or two personal or professional goals that you hope this course will help you achieve? (You may use the SMART model to assist you in writing your goals if you prefer.)

REPLY: I selected Advancement Courses because they offer an online course for 2 graduate credits, which I need for my recertification.

I chose this reading course because “reading is fundamental” and I recall a professional development seminar that promoted “reading across the curriculum.” I have passed the Reading subject area test for Florida Teachers. I’m a math teacher, but adults need to model reading. In brief scanning of the content of this course, I have learned about “read aloud” and “think aloud” and “book talks” -- which a math teacher should be able to demonstrate.

I have nominated Tai Lopez as “reading teacher of the year” because he has done more in my school in one week (I found five kids reading books that Tai recommended in videos) than I have done in two years. See www.TINYURL.com/TaiLopezReadingTeacher and

see his TEDx talk www.TINYURL.com/TaiLopezTEDx to see his technique. www.Tailopez.com/books is the location of dozens of free summaries of books that he has read.

- What are one or two personal or professional goals that you hope this course will help you achieve? (You may use the SMART model to assist you in writing your goals if you prefer.)

Professional goals: I hope that this course will help me share what I've learned about the Mastery Transcript so that other teachers can be influenced by www.Mastery.org and help increase the hits on their YouTube channel. I also hope that the course will help me create "book talks" about digital portfolios that will persuade parents to take notice of the procedures used in High Tech High and New Tech High schools.

Steve McCrea

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The course requires participation in forums.

Introductory Forum

Throughout this course, you will be interacting with your colleagues by responding to reflective prompts in the course's discussion board. To ensure full participation, please respond to one or two of your colleagues' posts on each discussion board.

At this time, please introduce yourself by describing:

- The grade(s) and subject(s) you teach, or other current professional role
- How many years you have been in your current role

- The composition of your school or workplace
- Something interesting about you
- Your goals for taking this course

Hi, My name is Steve. I'm a teacher in Florida. I'm taking this course to get

- The grade(s) and subject(s) you teach, or other current professional role
High school 9 to 12
- How many years you have been in your current role
I have taught test prep for 20 years
- The composition of your school or workplace
I usually do test prep and I currently tutor kids face to face
- Something interesting about you: I have become an ex-teacher. I'm an ex-lecturer. The work of Eric Mazur (Harvard University Physics professor TINYURL.com/EricMazur is remarkable) and "Turn to your Neighbor" have changed the way
- Your goals for taking this course: I'm hoping to get the 2 graduate credits that I need for my recertification. I also hope to spread the word about these links:

I have nominated Tai Lopez as "reading teacher of the year" because he has done more in my school in one week (I found five kids reading books that Tai recommended in videos) than I have done in two years. See www.TINYURL.com/TaiLopezReadingTeacher and see his TEDx talk www.TINYURL.com/TaiLopezTEDx to see his technique. www.Tailopez.com/books is the location of dozens of free summaries of books that he has read.

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that other teachers can be influenced by www.Mastery.org and help increase the hits on their YouTube channel. I also hope that the course will help me create “book talks” about digital portfolios that will persuade parents to take notice of the procedures used in High Tech High and New Tech High schools. To see more about the Mastery transcript, go to www.TINYURL.com/NoGradesVideo. Go ahead. It’s a look at what 150 private schools are doing to switch away from grades ...

www.TINYURL.com/NoGradesScott is the PDF that Scott Looney gave in Nov. 2017. I know, another report. But this is the future of education. Thanks for reading this far...

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Comment to other teachers

1) Have you heard about the Mastery Transcript?

I hope you will take a minute to look at www.Mastery.org and help increase the hits on their YouTube channel. ...go to www.TINYURL.com/NoGradesVideo. Go ahead. It’s a look at what 150 private schools are doing to switch away from grades ...

2) Have you heard about Tai Lopez and his suggestions for encouraging people to look at a different book every day? I have nominated Tai Lopez as “reading teacher of the year” because he has done more in my school in one week (I found five kids reading books that Tai recommended in videos) than I have done in two years. See www.TINYURL.com/TaiLopezReadingTeacher and see his TEDx talk www.TINYURL.com/TaiLopezTEDx to see his technique. www.Tailopez.com/books is the location of dozens of free summaries of books that he has read.

Good luck with this course. Steve SteveMflorida@gmail.com if you want to continue the conversation

If you bump into a good book, please recommend it.

www.TINYURL.com/50TAASA Neil Postman’s book Teaching as a Subversive Activity. See chapter 12

www.TINYURL.com/LittkyChapter1 excellent first chapter of a 2004

www.TINYURL.com/LittkyChapter4

www.TINYURL.com/LittkyRadio interview with Littky

Tom Toch, High Schools in the Human Scale a profile of High Tech High and Big Picture Learning

www.Bigpicture.org the website of the Littky schools

www.TinyURL.com/exampleDP example of a student portfolio

www.TINYURL.com/CPPPSite has some free ebooks

www.TINYURL.com/FischlerEbook commentaries by a former president of a distance learning university

If you have any books that you can recommend, I am interested.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=39&v=3-vTj38Nxdk Powtoon

? Question

In what ways could focusing on comprehension help your students become effective readers?

REPLY: an effective reader is a reader who can pick out the main idea and make a summary of the passage. COMPREHENSION is part of that effort.

References

Kelly, M. (2017, July). 10 reading comprehension strategies all students need. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/reading-comprehension-strategies-7952>

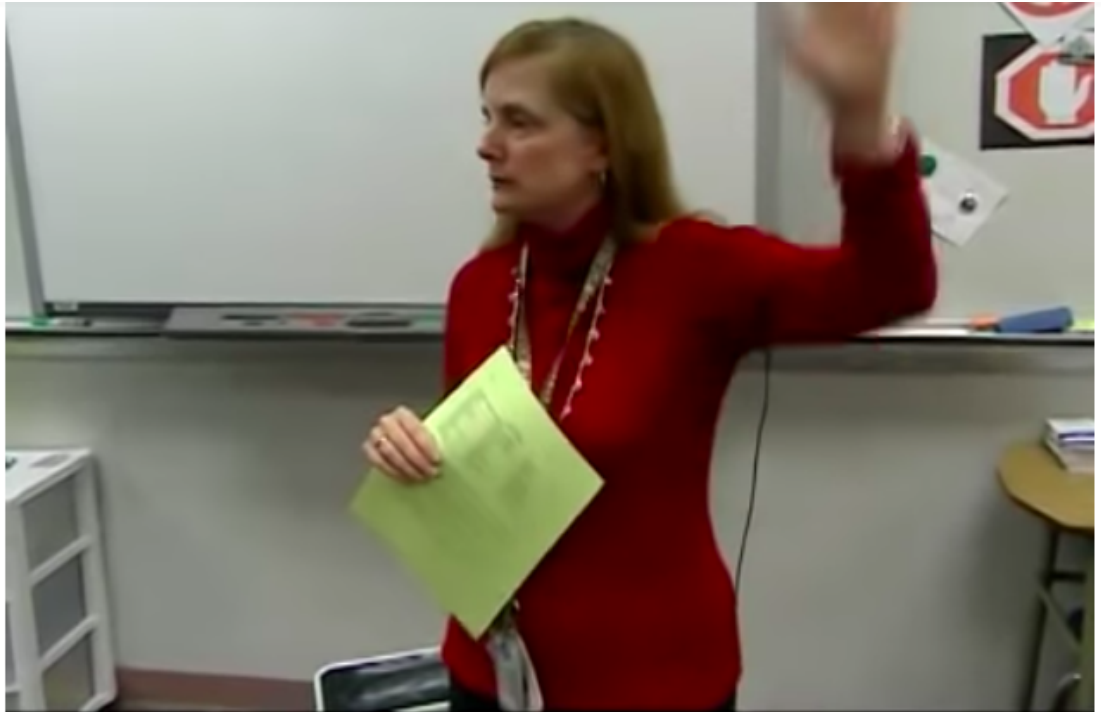
Read Naturally (n.d.). Comprehension. Retrieved from <https://www.readnaturally.com/research/5-components-of-reading/comprehension>

10 Reading comprehension strategies that all students need

<https://www.thoughtco.com/reading-comprehension-strategies-7952>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y00Oe-cODw>

Best Practices High School reading strategies



Best Practices: High School Reading Strategies

75,949 views

👍 225 💬 10 ➦ SHARE ≡ SAVE ...



Fairfax Network - Fairfax County Public Schools

Published on Dec 11, 2013

SUBSCRIBED 5K



This video demonstrates methods to use with high school students that will increase their reading skills.

As you watch this video, reflect on the importance of teaching comprehension strategies in your grade level.

One tip is to CLUSTER the vocabulary words. Learn opposites. Know why the words are clustered together.

OLIVER CROMWELL

THE ROUNDHEADS

Play (k)

2:56 / 5:47

Best Practices: High School Reading Strategies

75,949 views

226 10 SHARE SAVE ...



Know the difference between this guy and this group

Look for the 5% of the words in the chapter that are unique to that chapter.
A.K.A. the key words

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Day 4

Focus on learning about Alden Blodget and Lectica

Lectica wants to distribute a new type of formative assessment... free to the world. They ask for donations...

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Day 3 May 9, 2019

I'm still wrestling with the idea about what makes a good read-aloud topic. Maybe Dimitri Cristiakis -- but that might be too long. Perhaps some email messages by Tai Lopez and his book summaries.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoT7qH_uVNo

Day 2 May 8, 2019

<https://advancementcourses.learninghouse.com/> login here

Letter to the coordinator

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Engagement packet



[Options for Completion](#)

[Page](#)

To complete this course, you may choose between two options for engagement. You may participate in each online module by completing the readings, discussion forums, and activities, or if you prefer, you may download the activity packets for the course to complete on your own and submit to the assignment blocks in the appropriate Module sections.

Microsoft Word

- [Activity Packet 1: Modules 1 and 2](#)
- [Activity Packet 2: Modules 3](#)

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Comments after reading the engagement packet.

1. “Read aloud” is different than asking students to take turns reading the passage aloud to the whole class.
2. Reasons for the read aloud (from Why Every Class needs Read Alouds.” Edutopia article)

Create a class bond (create an atmosphere)

Create a love of reading

Preview information and give a tour

Show students how to read effectively

Comment: It’s like a performance. It’s like a ted talk.

Observation: Read alouds can be like a TED talk if the TED talk has a few graphics to guide the presentation and to help present information to the audience. Dimitri Cristiakis

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Day 1 May 7, 2019

The opening video of this course pointed out that the course is designed to ... fit Universal Design for Learning....

Relate the coursework to your learning goals and demonstrate that application by means most relevant to me. While using my own experience to frame that application.

If I'm going to learn about "how to help students read more effectively," I plan to use that course to further the transformation of schools that is happening in several private schools I want to support the idea that Tony Wagner has promoted

<https://pathbrite.com/blog/tony-wagner-the-single-most-important-thing-you-can-do-tomorrow-is-have-every-student-establish-a-digital-portfolio>

"The single most important thing you could do tomorrow for little to no money is have every student establish a digital portfolio where they collect their best work as evidence of their skills. Where they're working with their teachers and other adults to present their best work, to iterate their best work, so that they actually have real progress they can show."

Tony Wagner

Search "tony wagner seven survival skills" for 21st Century Skills

TINYURL.com/CPPPwhyWait

My Goals

I am a teacher. I have taught students in middle and high school and I currently want to prepare students and parents for the Mastery Transcript.

Description of the "Focus on Skills."

Over 150 private schools have joined the Mastery Transcript Consortium, which aims to switch their grading system to "badges", away from grades and grade point average.

Steve Covey wrote that we should "begin with the end in mind."

Is our goal to have students show that they are "3.52" or "2.51"?

Or do we want to read that the student has demonstrated great capacities for team work and taking the initiative?

That's the challenge before us in 2019. Two years ago, Scott Looney, headmaster of the Hawken School in Cleveland, released a report at the New York State Association of Independent Schools that described the opportunity to switch away from grades to a system of min-credits, like badges. The idea is to remove time pressure and the pressure of "getting the grade" -- His report had three points that caught my attention

1. Mount Holyoke college started the procedure of giving grades (A to F) for school work in 1897
2. Looney summarized the work of Alfie Kahn, pointing out Kahn's chief point that "the pursuit of grades reduces learning."
3. Dershowitz "excellent sheep" book was included in Looney's report to point out that grade inflation has hit universities.

One of the most important quotes used by Looney in his report was the observation by Buckminster Fuller that the

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By the way, here is my email signature. I share it with the hope that you will run down some of the links and learn more about Scott Looney's project

Steve McCrea
Fort Lauderdale Florida 33304
Whats App +1 (954) 646 8246 I accept text messages to my phone

25 seconds to boost the "No Grades" Transcript TINYURL.com/NoGradesSite
THANK YOU

Please take 4 minutes to click on this video

TINYURL.com/NoGradesVideo

the website www.mastery.org tells the fuller story
(good news for taxpayers)

freeWebsiteProject2016@gmail.com
FreeWebsiteProject.blogspot.com
Build a free website: TinyURL.com/FWPstart
TinyURL.com/sunAbe memorial to Dr. Fischler
Free ebooks to improve schools TinyURL.com/freeForFamily1

Campaign to Relax about Capitalization and Spelling CRACS
TinyURL.com/CRACScampaign

Historical Movie TiNYURL.com/poccPaul (Behind the scenes view, 4 minutes)
Movie website PaulMovie.com

Comments by one of the actors

Jim Caviezel TINYURL.com/JimSaulPaul

Documents to prepare to see the movie

TINY.cc/poccpaulpdf

TINYURL.com/POCCPaulPDF

"The quickest way to change another person's behavior is to change your behavior towards them. Kids are going to make mistakes. But if you make it a point to enjoy being with them, and treat them with great respect and care, there is almost no mistake you can't correct. They'll be far more open to your feedback when they feel that you like them and enjoy them." -- David Guerin, principal in Missouri

Contact him at his blog <http://www.davidgeurin.com>

<https://pathbrite.com/blog/tony-wagner-the-single-most-important-thing-you-can-do-tomorrow-is-have-every-student-establish-a-digital-portfolio>

"The single most important thing you could do tomorrow for little to no money is have every student establish a digital portfolio where they collect their best work as evidence of their skills. Where they're working with their teachers and other adults to present their best work, to iterate their best work, so that they actually have real progress they can show."

Tony Wagner

Search "tony wagner seven survival skills" for 21st Century Skills

TINYURL.com/CPPPwhyWait

FREE SKILLS course based on Tony Wagner's list

TINYURL.com/FreeSkillsUpdate

OVERALL GOAL

My aim with this course is to demonstrate to parents, teachers and students that a teacher actually did the course work. You don't have to rely on the vetting system or the authority of Greenville University You don't have to depend on the State of Florida's department of teacher Certification. You can read the essays that I wrote and the work that I submitted and decide for yourself

-- does the Dept of Education in Florida assign enough work to truly figure out if Steve should continue to be a teacher and continue to hold a teaching certificate?

-- does the Greenville University assign enough work for the awarding of 2 Graduate credits?

-- Should Steve's method of sharing his work become a standard or at least an alternative way to demonstrate continuing education?

INDEPENDENT ONGOING CONTINUING EDUCATION

Between 2013 and 2018, I worked with students and teachers to produce more than 50 documents and publish them on Createspace, which is now called Kindle Direct Publishing. At least twelve of those works contain words that I wrote, and contain ideas that I collected.

In 2014 I learned how to build a digital portfolio and showed the steps in Show Your Work, available as a free ebook TINYURL.com/ShowYourWork.

In 2015 I pulled the work of several students together and helped them show their abilities as authors. This led to producing a step by step guide to publishing student work TINYURL.com/sundanielmunoz You can see the link at <https://www.slideshare.net/theebookman/an-eye-foraneyeinteriorforkindle> and see the steps for moving forward in building a wider audience for students.

In 2016, I developed a report to principals that showed the flow from Projects to Digital Portfolio and created a free ebook called "The School Counselor's Guide to Digital Portfolios." TINYURL.com/sunDP5 another free ebook.

In 2017 I developed a short course to introduce students to projects, focusing on 32 pages to lead the students into the mindset of "I want to make a project" (a poster to attract the attention of passersby to the lyrics of a song that I respect or a quote). The steps resulted in a free ebook TINYURL.com/sunbrokenleg. It is the first guide to projects to feature the remarkable website project by Danny Yu and Luke Chang, students in Shanghai. See their project at TINYURL.com/sunNHD.

In 2018 I pulled together the best practices from High Tech High and New Tech High (in Sonoma, califl) and helped spread the link of newtechhigh.org/portfolio (which is a

Value for demonstrating continuing education? Zero. I received no credit from the Department of Education in Florida. I lost my certification and worked for a year without a certificate because I did not have enough graduate credits or inservice continuing education points.

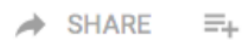
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Profile of Steve McCrea

Steve is a test prep tutor in Florida. He also has experience as a classroom teacher and he blogs about education. He is an early fan of the Mastery Transcript (he was person number 1775 to click on the video at TINYURL.com/nogradesvideo, called “Imagine a Transcript.” He was subscriber number 75 and the 7th person to like the video.)

Imagine a Transcript

1,775 views



The Mastery Transcript Consortium
Published on Feb 20, 2017

SUBSCRIBED 75

[TINYURL.com/NoGradesVideo](https://tinyurl.com/NoGradesVideo)

He has worked in private language schools as an ESOL teacher (he holds the CELTA English Language Teaching to Adults certificate, trained by Jeff Ahmed, who most recently was located in Texas). He has also worked in private, charter and public high schools in Florida.

He received his zzzzzz . in Psychology from Penn State University, an MST in Childhood Education from Fordham University, and an MSED in Literacy Education from Hunter College.

After completing his undergraduate degree, he began working at a trade publication called *The Wall Paper* in Fort Lauderdale (assisting vendors of wallpaper to keep up with the trends of the wallpaper industry). My first real employer, Jaent Verdeguer, helped me learn on the job and become a conduit for press releases.

He analyzed issues for a political candidate, Fran Bohnsack, who ran in 1988 for Florida State Legislature and again in 1990. He earned a master's degree program in Environmental Growth Management at Florida Atlantic University and in 1991 he qualified to work at the US Department of Energy as a "presidential intern" (it was a way for a master's degree student to get into the US government quickly). He made about \$27,000 a year and worked for 6 months in the USDOE Office of Transportation

Technologies, where he learned much about vehicles powered by alternative fuels.

He returned to Florida and substituted as a teacher in a language school (teaching English to visitors from Europe, South America and Asia) and liked the work. He earned a certificate for teaching English to Adults (CELTA) from Jeff Ahmed, EnglishInternational.org.

As an educator, Steve is interested in spreading the idea that “grades hurt learning” and “Scott Looney is right: shift to a focus on skills.” Since watching Looney’s presentation “Imagine a Transcript” (www.TinyURL.com/nogradesvideo), Steve has collaborated with his colleagues to create procedures to support students in learning to focus on developing skills more than pursuing grades. He works in a school that helps students who have failed classes or who have dropped out of high school. The charter school is located in Oakland Park, Florida and students can choose at any moment to work on up to five courses -- so Steve switches from math to history, science, reading skills and Spanish within a typical hour. He agrees with Dennis Littky: Let students perform their understanding with exhibitions and encourage students to talk: “Teachers listen; students talk” (Littky, *The Big Picture: Education is everyone's business*. See a free chapter at www.TINYURL.com/LittkyChapter1 and hear an interview with Littky at www.TINYURL.com/LittkyRadio from National Public Radio).

Steve learned from Richard Clark (USC cogtech.usc.edu) that **learning styles is not supported** by research and that **the focus of teachers should be to “build lessons on the prior knowledge of students”... not on how the lessons are delivered**. His studies at Nova University in the ITDE program led him to edit a book of Dr. Fischler’s commentaries, which Dr. Fischler asked to be distributed widely. You can get a free copy at www.TINYURL.com/FischlerFREEbook and a set of posters to support the ebook at www.TINYURL.com/FischlerPosters. More posters are available

at www.TINYURL.com/PostmanQuestions (to support Postman's book, *Teaching as a Subversive Activity* -- available as a download at www.TINYURL.com/50TAASA -- and you can add to the ongoing, perpetual online conference to celebrate 50 years of Postman's book at www.50YearsOfSubversiveTeaching.blogspot.com, which needs additional editors).

He agrees with Hal Urbn that it is important to support and feed a positive culture in classrooms. The goal is to encourage students to grow socially, emotionally and academically.